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Pike County Emergency Services (PCES) has put into service a Tactical Rescue Unit. It offers Pike County an enhanced rescue capability in times of need.

Donated by Atlanta Gas Light Company several years ago, the vehicle formerly carried equipment for the Dive Team. The purchase of materials for the project was made possible with a donation from Friendship Presbyterian Church. The truck was then painted and lettered at no cost by P&D Enterprises of Griffin.



"We felt that this particular piece of equipment would better serve our community in this capacity," explained Fire Chief Danny Henderson. "The department didn't have this equipment or ability until recently. We will now be able to perform quicker and more diverse rescues, and possibly save more lives by drastically cutting the time for an entrapped or confined patient to receive critical care."

The Tactical Rescue Unit will carry various vehicle extrication and specialized rescue equipment. Some equipment was purchased, but much of it was either repositioned from other stations or simply made by department members.

The apparatus is assigned to PCES Station #2, which primarily serves the Hollonville and Pedenville areas of the county. Members of Station #2 have shown an interest in specializing in rescue, adding to their present duties. Firefighters and first responders from other stations are taking part as well to create this specially trained team. Several of the department's personnel are in fact already certified in various specialized rescue techniques. Further training will be done either at the state academy or "in house."

"Because of the generosity of several different organizations, this unit was put into service at an extremely low cost to our department," said Chief Henderson. "The truck also has enough space to carry additional equipment in the future, which will give the community expanded service."